



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, approximately 1.9 million Texans have fallen victim to sexual assault in their lifetime. Six out of ten adults in Texas consider sexual assault a personal worry. Texans recognize the trauma caused by sexual assault, not only to the victim, but also to all those attempting to aid in recovery: family, friends, and colleagues.

WHEREAS, many Texans have dedicated their lives to ending sexual violence in Texas. Their work ranges from educating others about prevention to offering assistance to victims; from advocating for survivors to lobbying for legislative support in the fight to make Texas a no rape state.

WHEREAS, each year, the month of April provides an opportunity for the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA) and rape crisis centers across the state to renew their commitments to serve their communities. For this period, educational efforts intensify, ensuring that Texans are aware of the sexual assault services available in their area. In Laredo, SCAN, Inc.'s Sexual Assault Services and Information Program staff and volunteers are working to provide quality comprehensive services to sexual assault victims and their families while promoting awareness.

WHEREAS, the goal of TAASA is to ensure that Texas is responsive to sexual abuse and assault victims and is committed to ending sexual violence. The theme for this year, "Texas: A No Rape State", reflects the ideal and goal for a state that is intolerant of sexual violence in any form. This theme celebrates a proactive outlook towards prevention of sexual assault by educating and mobilizing Texans on every front.

WHEREAS, the safety of Texans tomorrow depends on our vigilance against sexual assault today. I join in asking the citizens of our community to increase their awareness and learn how they can prevent sexual assault and all other forms of violence in our community and communities across our great state.

Now, therefore, I, Louis H. Bruni, by virtue of the authority vested in me as County Judge of the County of Webb, State of Texas, do hereby proclaim the month of April, 2003, as

"SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH"

The Honorable Louis H. Bruni
Webb County Judge